

# A HAND BOOK OF ONGE LANGUAGE

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D. Dasgupta

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\*Some of the items enlisted in the vocabulary are short sentences.



## INTRODUCTION

The Handbook of the Onge language has been prepared primarily on the basis of the published language material (Radcliffe-Brown, 1914, Nigam, 1955-56, Ganguly, 1961) with a view to providing the non-linguists with some basic working knowledge of the language to enable them to interact with the Onges in a better way, since the Onge language is hitherto unintelligible to the outsiders.

A short linguistic field work was conducted in Little Andaman in April, 1976, to check up some of the published language material and to collect additional data. As Ganguly's material is comparatively exhaustive and the variations were found to be negligible during the field investigation, his material has been incorporated in the present handbook as much as possible. Some important rules of word formation with examples have been given repeatedly in the various sections of the handbook to enable the learner to memorise and use the handbook easily.

It is to be noted that though few Onges can communicate in Hindi with the outsiders to some extent, their areas of interaction with the outsiders are very much restricted with the result that the Onges, by and large, are still monolingual. Ganguly's language material virtually served as a basis for the field work among the Onges in Little Andaman.

The Onge is a small tribe inhabiting in little Andaman which is the southernmost island of the Andaman

Archipelago. The group of Andaman islands consists of about 265 islands (vide, Staticsical Abstracts, Andaman Administration, Port Blair) big or small in the Bay of Bengal stretching between  $10^{\circ}13'N$ — $13^{\circ}30'N$  Latitude and  $92^{\circ}15'E$ — $93^{\circ}10'E$  Longitude.

The total area of little Andaman is 282.46 square miles and is covered with dense tropical forest.

The Onges call themselves *ẽne* which means 'man'. They are nomadic hunters and food gatherers. The tribe appears to be dwindling very fast and the present number of individuals would hardly be little above one hundred.

No detailed descriptive study on Onge language has yet been done. On the basis of available language material no genetic relationship could have been established with any family of languages spoken in the main land of India.

The present handbook has been prepared under the supervision of Shree Krishan, Senior Linguist, Anthropological Survey of India.

The data were collected mainly from the following informants who were camping at Dugong Creek.

1. Nabikutai.
2. Bara Raju
3. Chota Raju
4. Borogegi
5. Ramu and other members of the group,



**Note:**

- indicates analysed forms
- / indicates alternative forms or meanings
- ~ indicates alternative forms or allomorphs
- > indicates 'becomes'

English gloss followed by an interrogative mark (?)  
indicates that the meaning is not certain.

## CHAPTER ONE

### Speech Sounds of Onge

#### Vowels

- /ɔ/ Lower-mid, back, rounded, pronounced somewhat like "o" in English "hot", Bengali অ in অনেক (anek) "many".

Onge, onne "want something"

tonki "night"

gibbo "his cheek"

- /a/ Low, central, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like Hindi आ in काट (kāṭ) "to cut", Bengali আমি (āmi) "I".

Onge, agehe "sand"

ñabe "wife having no child (term of address)"

cEta "later"

- /i/ High, front, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like "i" in English "fit", Hindi इ in इमली (imli) "tamarind".

Onge, icele "path ; way"

liya "here"

uli "stone".

- /u/ High, back, rounded, pronounced somewhat like English "u" in "put", Hindi उ in उमर (umar) "age".

Onge, ueme "dog"

tonkulu "sun"

icu "dark".

/e/ Higher-mid, front, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like English "e" in "pen", Bengali এ in একটি (ekṭi) "one".

Onge, ecele "chlld"

inene "foreigner (male)"

we "clay"

/E/ Lower-mid, front, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like English "a" in "fair", Hindi ऐ in है (hāi) "is".

Onge, Entoge "grown up unmarried boy"

bEja "dark cloud (which rains)"

eJeleE "urinate"

/o/ Higher-mid, back, rounded, pronounced somewhat like Hindi ओ in ओस (os) "dew", Bengali ও in ওরা (orā) "they".

Onge, oto "fruit"

kooŋe "snake"

cōybo "rat"

/ë/ Higher-mid, back, unrounded, pronounced somewhat like German "Ö" in "SchÖn" but German Ö is higher-mid, front, unrounded, whereas Onge "ë" is higher-mid, back, unrounded. To produce this sound, pronounce "o" keeping the lips spread. This sound has no equivalent in English or in wellknown Indian languages.

Onge, ëŋe "man"

lēcune "there (not far away)"

kē "harpoon (for hunting Dugong and turtle)"

### Consonants

/k/ Voiceless unaspirated velar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "k" in "akin", Hindi क in कमल (kamal) "lotus".  
Onge, kue "pig"  
maŋka "at me"

/g/ Voiced unaspirated velar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "g" in "ago". Hindi ग in गीत (gīt) "song".  
Onge, gea "land"  
coge 'fish"

/ŋ/ Velar nasal, pronounced like "ng" in English "ring" Hindi ङ in रंग-रङ्ग (raṅg) "colour"  
Onge, ŋi "you" (sg.)  
da?ŋe "tree ; canoe"  
iŋe "water"

/c/ Voiceless unaspirated palatal affricate, pronounced somewhat like English "ch" in "church", Hindi च in चाय (cāy) "tea".  
Onge, cileme "moon"  
ice "now"

Onge, "c" is nearer to Hindi च than English "ch".

/j/ Voiced unaspirated palatal affricate, pronounced somewhat like English "j" in "judge", Hindi ज

in जन्म (janam). Onge "j" is nearer to Hindi ज than English "j".

Onge, jiwaye "a variety of crab"  
gejale "his face"

/ñ/ Palatal nasal. Tongue position is same as it is made to pronounce Hindi ञ but the air-stream is released through the nose only. It is somewhat like Sanskrit ञ.

Onge, ñaṇa "prawn"  
taṇja "honey"

/l/ Voiceless unaspirated alveolar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "t" in "material", Assamese ত in তিনি (tini) "three".

Onge, toga "naked"  
toṅkute "ashes"

/d/ Voiced unaspirated alveolar stop, pronounced somewhat like English "d" in "date", Assamese দ in দিন (din) "day".

Onge, daṅkale "a kind of tree"  
tiṇdeme "husband having no child  
(term of address)."

/n/ Alveolar nasal, pronounced somewhat like English "n" in "any", Hindi न in नवीन (navin) "new".

Onge, narema "not"/"no"  
bini "to speak ; throw"

/b/ Voiced unaspirated bilabial stop, pronounced

somewhat like English "b" in "bite", Hindi ब in बन्द (band) "close".

Onge, bEra "communal hut"  
ebara "small girl"

/m/ bilabial nasal, pronounced somewhat like English "m" in "man", Hindi म in मकान (makān) "house".

Onge, mi "I"  
umuge "pigeon"

/y/ Palatal semivowel, pronounced somewhat like English "y" in "yes", Hindi य in याद (yād) "memory".

Onge, yama "burn (something by fire)"  
debaye "son ; daughter (term of address)"

/r/ Alveolar trill, pronounced somewhat like English "r" in "rib", Hindi र in रात (rāt) "night".

Onge, uentayra "puppy"  
giru "brown"  
korale "temporary hut"

/l/ Alveolar lateral, pronounced somewhat like English "l" in "like", Hindi ल in लड़का (larkā) "boy".

Onge, le "honey"  
wekala "white ; white clay "

/w/ Bilabial semivowel, pronounced somewhat like English "w" in "water", Hind व in वापस (vāpas)

"return". Onge "w" is nearer to English "w" than Hindi व .

Onge, we "clay"

-icwe "keep (pork in the basket)".

/ʔ/ Glottal stop.

To pronounce this sound the air stream is stopped at the glottis and released abruptly. This sound resembles Mundari "ʔ" in "daʔ" "water".

Onge, daʔne "tree, canoe".

koʔ "take" (imp.)

## CHAPTER TWO

### Some Important Features of Onge Word Formation

Structurally all Onge words fall under two main categories: (i) Independent forms and (ii) Dependent forms.\* Independent forms can occur independently, e.g. kue "pig", wekala "white", ebara "small girl", inene "foreigner (male)". The Independent forms may begin either with a vowel or with a consonant.

Dependent forms do not occur alone—they always occur with personal prefixes, e.g., goticu "his head", g- is third person singular prefix "his" -oticu "head" (Dependent form). Dependent forms begin with a vowel and generally include kinship terms, forms denoting parts of a whole, names of body parts, some verbs and attributes, postpositions denoting location, direction etc. The dependent forms take noun or pronoun as prefix which shows possession in noun forms and subject or object relationship in verb forms, e.g. uemegioticu "the dog's head" (ueme "dog" + gi "the" + oticu "head") molagebe "I danced" (m- "1st. person singular prefix" functions as subject + olage "dance" + be "tense suffix"), koonēgi gitebe "the snake bit him" (koonē "snake" + gi "the" + g- "3rd person singular suffix" functions as object + ite "bite" + be "tense suffix").

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\*Dependent forms are marked with a - (hyphen) before the form in the vocabulary.



*Pronominal Prefixes*

Onge has the following pronominal prefixes which are added to the dependent forms:

- (i) m- first person singular, e.g., moticu "my head".

m- "my"

-oticu "head"

- (ii) et- ~ ot- 1st person plural.

- (a) et- occurs with the forms beginning with  
i, e, E, a, e.g., etejalle "our faces".

et- "our"

-ejalle "faces" (-ejale + pl. suffix -le)

- (b) ot- occurs with the forms beginning with  
o, u, o, e.g., ototicule "our heads".

ot- "our"

-oticule "heads"

(-oticu + pl. suffix -le)

It is observed in the speech of some Onges that et- freely varies with ot- : etoticule ~ ototicule.

- (iii) ñ- second person singular.

e.g., ñoticu "your head".

ñ- "your. (sg.)"

-oticu "head"

- (iv) n- second person plural

e.g., noticule "your heads".

n- "your (pl.)"

-oticule "heads"

- (v) g- third person singular.  
 e.g., goticu "his head."  
 g- "his"  
 -oticu "head"

- (vi) ek- ~ ok- ~ ekw- "3rd. person plural".

- (a) ek- occurs with the forms which begin with u, e.g., ekuenle "their dogs".

ek- "their"  
 uenle "dogs"

- (b) ok- occurs with the forms having o, ɔ in the beginning, e.g., ekoticule "their heads".

ek- "their"  
 -oticule "heads"

It is observed in the speech of some Onges that ek- freely varies with ok- : okoticule ~ ekoticule.

- (c) ekw- occurs with forms which begin with i, e, E, a, e.g., ekwejalle "their faces"

ekw- "their"  
 ejalle "faces"

- (vii) on- ~ ɛn- indefinite third person (sg. pl.) whenever placed before a noun, indicates possession by some one (human).

- (a) on- occurs with those forms which begin with o and ɔ, e.g., onoticu "some one's head"

on- "some one (human)"  
 -oticu "head"  
 onoticule "someone's heads",  
 onɔŋgele "some one fails to get"  
 on- "someone"  
 -ɔŋgele "fail to get"

(b) *ən-* occurs with other forms

ənejale "some one's face (human face)";  
 -ejale "face"  
 ənejebo "some one's eye (human eye)";  
 -ejebo "eye"

### Number

There are three numbers in Onge, viz., singular, dual and plural. Generally, following suffixes are added to the nouns.

For Singular — -da or -ra is added,  
 for dual — -dena or -rena is added,  
 for plural — -le is added  
 But some nouns take -di or -ri for singular  
 -deni or -reni for dual  
 -ni for plural.

Some examples are given showing the use of number suffixes.

Onge	English	singular	dual	plural
inene	"foreigner"	inenda	inendena	inenle
da?ne	"canoe"	da?nda	da?ndena	da?nle

Onge	English	singular	dual	plural
ueme	"dog"	uenda	uendena	uenle
kue	"pig"	kuera	kuarena	kuele
umuge	"pigeon"	umudda	umuddena	umulle
ale	"child"	aleri	alereni	alenni
wawa	"crow"	wawara	wawarena	wawale

Number suffix seems to be closely attached to certain kinship terms, however, it is not obligatory. e.g.,

ume "father"

kay "mother"

kolo "grand-father" if separated from their number, suffixes, function only as vocatives, whereas

umeri

kayri

koloddi seems to function in all syntactical relations.

#### Article

gi- ~ -i (definite article) occurs with the nouns. It is not possible to define the distribution of the article -gi or -i either phonologically or morphologically on the basis of the present data. However, we can list some words which take -gi (e.g. bennañe-gi "the sky") and some other which take -i (e.g. toñkulu-i "the sun").

#### Words which take -gi

bennañe	"sky"
ueme	"dog"
narelañe	"turtle"
coge	"fish"

#### Words which take -i

toñkulu	"sun"
kue	"pig"
wawa	"crow"
cEñkwete	"frog"

## Words which take -gi

umuge	"pigeon"
koone	"snake"
kame	"mat"
da?ne	"canoe"
atañe	"cane"
bulundañe	"monkey jackfruit"

## Words which take -i

korige	"owl"
tirannañacu	"shark"
ñaña	"prawn"
ebe	"thread"
nareEle	"coconut"
gigi	"tuber"

*Syntactic Relations*

There are certain suffixes which indicate syntactic relations. -a indicates possession, instrument and location.

Possessor always precedes the possessed form. In case of dependent noun forms prefixation is obligatory. When the possessed form is independent, the possessor takes the suffix -a after the article -gi ~ -i. The vowel of the article is elided, e.g.,

ēnega kwelabo "the onge's cloth"  
 consists of ēñe "onge" + -gi "article" + -a  
 "possessive suffix" + kwelabo "cloth".

the -i of the article -gi is elided in the combined form.

The independent noun forms used as possessed forms may be classed into two classes :

- (i) The nouns before which the possessor is directly added without any possessive suffix, however, such noun forms are less in frequency. e.g.,

ēnegibEra	"the Onge's hut"
ēnegiberEe	"the Onge's canoe"
ēnegiemma	"the Onge's mat"

- (ii) The noun forms with which the possessor may be compounded or before which it may occur as a separate form with the suffix -a. e.g.,

ēnegikame            or  
ēnega kame        "the onge's mat"

ēnegicikwe        or  
ēnega cikwe       "the onge's net"

ēnegitolewaga    or  
ēnega tolewaga   "the onge's basket"

Possessor also occurs as a separate form with suffix -a in case of most of the nouns. -a also indicates instrument and location e.g.,

(lEbanare+a) lEbanarea "at lebanare (creek)"

(lEgi+a) lega "by the knife"

(ñ+omegi+a) ñomega "by your hand"

Sometimes -e also functions as locative or instrumental but with a slight difference in meaning. e.g.,

(icelegi + e) icelege "through the path"

(da?ñegi + e) da?ñege "by means of canoe"

-ta and -ba are temporal suffixes indicating sense of past and future time respectively.

e.g., ekueta "in today (past)"

ekueba "in today (future)"

ekue "day, today"

tañkita	"yesterday"
tañkiba	"at night (future)"
tañki	"night"
ecekota	"just before"
ecekoba	"just after"
eceko	"now"

### Pronouns

Pronouns may be classed as personal, demonstrative, interrogative and reflexive. Personal pronouns have the distinction of singular and plural except third person (indefinite) *ēni*.

mi	"I"
eti	"we"
ñi	"you (sg.)"
ni	"you (pl.)"
gi	"he, she, it."
ekwi	"they (pl.)"
ēni	"he, they" indefinite (3rd person).

Personal pronouns are related to the pronominal prefixes and occur with the dependent forms.

Third person singular pronoun and article are identical in form (-gi).

Usually personal pronouns occur in the subject position as substitute of nouns, but when they occur in the position of an object or as possessor they generally take the suffix -a. The vowel -i of the personal pronoun is elided in such cases.

- (mi+a) ma "my, me"  
 (eti+a) eta "our, us"  
 (ni+a) na "your (sg.)"  
 (ni+a) na "your (pl.)"  
 (gi+a) ga "his, him, her, its"  
 (ekwi+a) ekwa "their, them"

But third person indefinite in combination with the suffix -a (ēna) have not been observed in the data so far.

In possessive formations mi. ni etc. forms are combined with independent possessed nouns of class (i) as stated above; examples:

- etibEra "our hut"  
 gibereE "his canoe"

ma, na, ga etc. occur before the class (ii) nouns as stated above.

- e.g., ma kwelabo "my cloth"  
 na takwe "your smoking pipe."

### *Reflexive Pronouns*

The suffix -akwi is added to the pronouns in order to form reflexive pronouns.

### *Examples*

- (mi+akui) makui "myself"  
 (eti+akui) etakui "ourselves"  
 (ni+akui) nakui "yourself"  
 (ni+akui) nakui "yourselves"



- (gi + akui) gakui "himself"  
 (ekwi + akui) ekwakui "themselves"

### *Demonstrative Pronouns*

Followings are the demonstrative pronouns in Onge.

- li "this or these"  
 lē "that or those" (not far away)  
 lua "that or those" (far away)

They are combined with other elements such as -kai "person or thing" and

-ɔya "place", therefore, the formations will be :

- likai "this person or thing"  
 (likai + reni) likareni "these two persons or things"  
 lēkai "that person or thing (not far away)"  
 luakai "that person or thing (far away)"  
 liɔya "here (place)"  
 lēɔya "there (place not far away)"  
 luaɔya "there (place far away)"

They precede the nouns which they qualify, e.g.,  
 (li + icelegi + -e) licelege "through this path",

### *Interrogative Pronouns*

Commonly one, kwa and ña forms express the sense of question or interrogation. Meanings of these are determined by the contexts in which they are used. They may be used as free forms by themselves or can be combined with other forms to make interrogative pronouns.

*Examples*

one "which"

oneruko "which direction"

onenare "what"

onerena "why"

kwa or ko "where"

kwace "what, how"

ñakai "which person or thing"

ñakaya "whose"

naoya "which place"

The following sentences show the use of *kwa* and *ña* as free forms :

1. *kwa* ñakai gawaleteke.  
who is peeping into ?
2. *kwa* ñakalabukele uenlei.  
To whom are the dogs barking ?
3. *ña* gakēewa.  
Has he a harpoon ?

*Post-Positions*

There is a class of post-positions which are added to the nouns and pronouns to indicate direction and location. Final vowels of the nouns and pronouns are elided.

*Examples*

-ota "towards"

(mi + ota) mota "towards me"

- (gi + ota) gota "towards him"  
 (ni + ota) nota "towards you (sg.)"  
 (ni + ota) nota "towards you (pl.)"  
 (kue + ota) kuota "towards the pig"  
 (ueme + ota) uemota "towards the dog"

1. mi kuburaŋgannebota loŋgotigannaŋka "I poured tea from bamboo container towards the mug".

-aŋka "at, by"

- (mi + aŋka) maŋka "at me"  
 (gi + aŋka) gaŋka "at him"  
 (ni + aŋka) naŋka "at you (sg.)"

1. gi ukuannaŋka tanjaibube "he poured honey in the (at the) bucket"

2. ɛnɛgi duamembaŋka gitekombaŋka

The Onge becomes spirit when after climbing a tree he falls (dies by climbing and by falling).

-ejeka "away"

- (mi + ejeka) mejeka "away from me"  
 (gi + ejeka) gejeka "away from him"  
 (ni + ejeka) nejeka "away from you (sg.)"

-oŋota "with"

- (mi + oŋota) moŋota "with me"  
 (gi + oŋota) goŋota "with him"  
 (ni + oŋota) noŋota "with you" (sg.)  
 (ni + oŋota) noŋota "with you (pl.)"

(beleme + oñota) belemonoñota "with smoke"  
 (ueme + oñota) uemoñota "with dog"

### Verb

#### Onge verb-structure

Onge verb generally consists of the following components.

#### Simple Verb

E.g. ekwakobelatellebegi "they came running".

Prefixed noun or pronoun (obligatory for depend- ent verb stems only).	Verb Stem	Suffix indicating direction or location	Number Suffix occurs only when the subject is in pl.	Suffix indicating tense, aspect and mode	indicative or interroga- tive.
ekw -	-akobela	-te	-lle	-be	-gi
Third person pl. prefix,	"run"	"direction"	pl.	completive aspect	indicative

If a verb has both subject and object, the object is prefixed to the dependent verb form and subject occurs separately preceding the verbal form. e.g.,

mi cɔgegiantebe "I shot the fish with arrow"

Subject.	Object	Verb.	Completive aspect.
mi	cɔgegi	-antite	-be
"I"	"fish the"	"to pierce with arrow."	completive suffix

If the verb does not have the object, and the subject is a personal pronoun, then the subject is prefixed to the dependent verb form.

E.g.,	mentitebe	"I shot with arrow"
Subject	Verb	Completive aspect,
m-	-antite	-be
"I"	"to pierce with arrow"	Completive Suffix

A major portion of the verb stem structures is simple as indicated in the above chart but there are some compound verb stems too. In the compound verb the second verb is preceded by the main verb and its initial syllable is elided, e.g.,

- akobelatuke "run out"
- (-akobela "run"
- +utuke "be born, come out")
- antekēlakwe "remain sitting"
- (-antekē "sit"+bElakwe "stay")

As stated above in the chart that prefixation of a noun or pronoun is obligatory for dependent verbs whereas independent verbs do not take such prefixes.

Both dependent and independent verbs may further be classified as transitive (with object) and intransitive (without object). The prefix of the dependent intransitive verb indicates the subject of the verb. e.g.,

- milokwale "I eat"  
 etilokwale "we eat"  
 nilokwale "you eat (sg.)"  
 nilokwale "you eat (pl.)"  
 gilokwale "he eats"  
 ekwilokwale "they eat (pl.)"

The prefix of the dependent transitive verb indicates the object of the verb, e.g.,

- gi malabukea "he scolds me"  
 mi galabukea "I scold him"  
 gi ñalabukea "he scolds you"  
 ñi galabukea "you scold him"

When an intransitive verb is used transitively (i.e., takes an object) the suffix -a is added to the object, e.g.,  
 takwega mañgotabele "I smoke the pipe."

- takwe "pipe"  
 + -gi "article"  
 + -a "suffix (for object)"  
 m- "first person singular subject prefix"  
 + -añgotabele "smoke (intransitive verb)"

In case of independent verbs the subject and the object usually occur as separate forms, e.g.,

1. wega gi ma uebe "she painted me with clay"
2. ñi ma añgibete belebe "you gave me a match-box"
3. mi omokabe "I slept"

There is a class of suffixes which are added to verbal forms to indicate direction and location, such as -ji, -ke, -ne, -te.

*Examples.*

ale?maji "return (from a near by place)"

ale?make "return" (from far away)

-akobelete "run (to the speaker)"

-akobelanne "run (from the speaker)"

bEette "climb up"

bEjji "come down"

ugi?kei "fly"

ugi?kete "fly away"

It appears from the data collected so far that some verbs take a number suffix when its subject is in the plural form. However, it is difficult to state this process through some rule.

E.g., molagebe "I danced"

(m- "first person singular prefix"

+ -olage "dance"

+ -be "completive suffix".)

otolagellebe "we danced"

getabetebe "he drowned"

ekwetabellebe "they drowned"

gi bencamebe "he died"

ekwi bencamellebe "they died"

Some verbs take plural number suffix to indicate repeated action, e.g.,

ni miekwellebe "you beat me repeatedly"

(m - first person sg. prefix.

+ -iekwe "beat"

+ -lle "plural suffix"

+ -be "completive suffix")

Suffixes indicating tense, aspect and mode are given below.

### Examples

-be "suffix usually indicates past or the action which is completed already."

"une? to go, to come"

(independent verb form)

mi	une?be	"I went"
eti	une?be	"we went" (pl.)
ni	une?be	"you went" (sg.)
ni	une?be	"you went" (pl.)
gi	une?be	"he went"
ekwi	une?be	"they went" (pl.)

omoka "to sleep"

(independent verb form)

mi	omokabe	"I slept"
eti	omokabe	"we slept"
ni	omokabe	"you slept" (sg.)
ni	omokabe	"you slept" (pl.)
gi	omokabe	"he slept"



ekwi omokabe "they slept"

ekwi omokabe ma "they did not sleep"

Note : Negation *ma* is generally added at the end of simple sentences.

eñi "to laugh"

(independent verb form)

mi eñibe "I laughed"

eti eñibe "we laughed"

ñi eñibe "you laughed" (sg.)

ni eñibe "you laughed" (pl.)

gi eñibe "he laughed"

ekwi eñibe "they laughed"

-a~ -E indicates *present continuous tense* or *immediate future*, e.g.,

une? "to go/to come"

mi une?a/une?E "I am going"

eti une?a/une?E "we are going"

ñi une?a/une?E "you are going (sg.)"

ni une?a/une?E "you are going (pl.)"

gi une?a/une?E "he is going"

ekwi une?a/une?E "they are going"

omoka "to sleep"

mi omokaE "I am sleeping"

eti omokaE "we are sleeping"

ñi omokaE "you are sleeping" (sg.)

ni omokaE "you are sleeping" (pl.)

gi omokaE "he is sleeping"  
 ekwi omokaE "they are sleeping"

eñi "to laugh"

mi eñia/eñiE "I am laughing"  
 eti eñia "we are laughing"  
 ñi eñia "you are laughing" (sg.)  
 ni eñia "you are laughing" (pl.)  
 gi eñia "he is laughing"  
 ekwi eñia "they are laughing"

-nene indicates future tense and also imperative mood  
 (i.e., command).

ĩnkē "go"

(independent verb form)

mi ĩnkēnene "I shall go"  
 eti ĩnkēnene "we shall go"  
 ñi ĩnkēnene "you will go" (sg.)  
 ni ĩnkēnene "you will go" (pl.)  
 gi ĩnkēnene "he will go"  
 ekwi ĩnkēnene "they will go"

*Imperative mood, command*

ĩnkēnene "go away" (command, order)

or

ñi ĩnkēnene "you go away (imp., sg.)"  
 ni ĩnkēnene "you go away (imp., pl.)"

-nene "Future tense".

## omoka "to sleep"

mi	omokanene	"I shall sleep"
eti	omokanene	"we shall sleep"
ni	omokanene	"you will sleep" (sg.)
ni	omokanene	"you will sleep" (pl.)
gi	omokanene	"he will sleep"
ekwi	omokanene	"they will sleep"

imperative mood (command).

omokanene "sleep (imp.)"

or

ni	omokanene	"you sleep (imp., sg.)"
ni	omokanene	"you sleep (imp., pl.)"

—nene "Future tense".

eñi "to laugh".

mi	eñinene	"I shall laugh"
eti	eñinene	"we shall laugh"
ni	eñinene	"you will laugh" (sg.)
ni	eñinene	"you will laugh" (pl.)
gi	eñinene	"he will laugh"
ekwi	eñinene	"they will laugh"

imperative mood (command)

eñinene	"laugh (imp.)"
niñinene	"you laugh" (imp., sg.)
niñinene	"you laugh" (imp., pl.)

—kaka indicates *subsequent or distant future time*  
 une? "to go ; to come"

mi	une?kaka	"I shall go"
eti	une?kaka	"we shall go"
ni	une?kaka	"you will go (sg.)"
ni	une?kaka	"you will go (pl.)"
gi	une?kaka	"he will go"
ekwi	une?kaka	"they will go"

omoka "to sleep"

mi	omokakaka	"I shall sleep."
eti	omokakaka	"we shall sleep"
ni	omokakaka	"you will sleep" (sg.)
ni	omokakaka	"you will sleep" (pl.)
gi	omokakaka	"he will sleep"
ekwi	omokakaka	"they will sleep"

eñi "to laugh"

mi	eñikaka	"I shall laugh"
eti	eñikaka	"we shall laugh"
ni	eñikoka	"you will laugh" (sg.)
ni	eñikaka	"you will laugh" (pl.)
gi	eñikaka	"he will laugh"
ekwi	eñikaka	"they will laugh"

—ba indicates *indefinite future time*

une? "to go, to come."

mi	une?ba	"I shall go"
eti	une?ba	"we shall go"

ni	une?ba	"you will go" (sg.)
ni	une?ba	"you will go" (pl.)
gi	une?ba	"he will go"
ekwi	une?ba	"they will go"

## omoka "to sleep"

mi	omokaba	"I shall sleep"
eti	omokaba	"we shall sleep"
ni	omokaba	"you will sleep" (sg.)
ni	omokaba	"you will sleep" (pl.)
gi	omokaba	"he will sleep"
ekwi	omokaba	"they will sleep"

## eñi "to laugh"

mi	eñiba	"I shall laugh"
eti	eñiba	"we shall laugh"
ni	eñiba	"you will laugh" (sg.)
ni	eñiba	"you will laugh" (pl.)
gi	eñiba	"he will laugh"
ekwi	eñiba	"they will laugh"

—ilokowale "eat" —be "past completive"  
(dependent verb form)

milokowalebe	"I ate"
etilokowalebe	"we ate"
ñilokowalebe	"you ate" (sg.)
nilokowalebe	"you ate" (pl.)
gilokowalebe	"he ate"
ekwilokowallebe	"they ate"

—injo "drink"

(dependent verb form)

minjobe	"I drank"
etinjebe	"we drank"
ninjobe	"you drank" (sg.)
ninjebe	"you drank" (pl.)
ginjobe	"he drank"
ekwinjebe	"they drank"

lakonne "bring"  
(independent verb form)

mi	lakonnebe	"I brought"
eti	lakonnebe	"we brought"
ni	lakonnebe	"you brought" (sg.)
ni	lakonnebe	"you brought" (pl.)
gi	lakonnebe	"he brought"
ekwi	lakonnebe	"they brought"

—a~—E Present continuous tense or immediate future,

—ilokowale "to eat"

milokowalea	"I am eating"
etilokowallea	"we are eating"
nilokowalea	"you are eating" (sg.)
nilokowallea	"you are eating" (pl.)
gilokowalea	"he is eating"
ekwilokowallea	"they are eating"

—injo "to drink"

minjoa "I am drinking"

etinjlea	"we are drinking"
ninjoa	"you are drinking" (sg.)
ninjlea	"you are drinking" (pl.)
ginjoa	"he is drinking"
ekwinjlea	"they are drinking"

lokonne "to bring"

mi	lakonnea	"I am bringing"
eti	lakonnea	"we are bringing"
ni	lakonnea	"you are bringing" (sg.)
ni	lakonnea	"you are bringing" (pl.)
gi	lakonnea	"he is bringing"
ekwi	lakonnea	"they are bringing"

In some cases (specially in Questions) -ke is also found to indicate the continuation of the action or continuous tense.

#### Examples

1. ume ni naoya bElakweke.  
Father, where are you staying ?
2. nakai beruleke. Who is suffering from fever ?
3. kwa nakai gawaleteke. Who is peeping into ?
4. nakai nejeka juka tetilebeke.  
Who is refusing to give you tobacco ?
5. kwaye core ni giabake. Where do you see it ?

-nene future tense and imperative mood (command etc.). -ilokowale

milokowalenene "I shall eat"

etilokowallenene	"we shall eat"
n̄ilokowalenene	"you will eat" (sg.)
nilokowallenene	"you will eat" (pl.)
gilokowalenene	"he will eat"
ekwilokowallenene	"they will eat"

## imperative forms

n̄ilokowalenene	"you eat" (imp., sg.)
nilokowallenene	"you eat" (imp., pl.)

## -injo

minjonene	"I shall eat"
etinjlenene	"we shall eat"
n̄injonene	"you will eat" (sg.)
n̄injlenene	"you will eat" (pl.)
ginjolenene	"he will eat"
ekwinjlenene	"they will eat"

## imperative forms

n̄injonene	"you eat" (sg.)
n̄injlenene	"you eat" (pl.)

## lakonne "to bring"

mi lakonnenene	"I shall bring"
eti lakonnenene	"we shall bring"
n̄i lakonnenene	"you will bring" (sg.)
ni lakonnenene	"you will bring" (pl.)
gi lokonnenene	"he will bring"
ekwi lakonnenene	"they will bring"



## Imperative forms (commands)

ni lakonnenene "you bring" (sg., imp.)

ni lakonnenene "you bring" (pl., imp.)

or

lakonnenene "bring" (imp.)

—kaka Subsequent or distant future.

—ilokowale "to eat"

milokowalekaka "I shall eat"

etilokowallekaka "we shall eat"

nilokowalekaka "you will eat" (sg.)

nilokowallekaka "you will eat" (pl.)

gilokowalekaka "he will eat"

ekwilokowallekaka "they will eat"

—injo "to drink"

minjokaka "I shall drink"

etinjlekaka "we shall drink"

ninjokaka "you will drink" (sg.)

ninjlekaka "you will drink" (pl.)

ginjokaka "he will drink"

ekwinjlekaka "they will drink"

lakonne "to bring"

mi lakonnekaka "I shall bring"

eti lakonnekaka "we shall bring"

ni laknnoekaka "you will bring" (sg.)

ni lakonnekaka "you will bring" (pl.)

gi lakonnekaka "he will bring"

ekwi lakonnekaka "they will bring"

## -ba indefinite future tense

taoe "to eat pig"

mi	kue	taoeba	"I shall eat pig"
eti	kue	taoeba	"we shall eat pig"
ni	kue	taoeba	"you will eat pig" (sg.)
ni	kue	taoeba	"you will eat pig" (pl.)
gi	kue	taoeba	"he will eat pig"
ekwi	kue	taoeba	"they will eat pig"

-ilokowale "to eat"

milokowaleba	"I shall eat"
etilokowalleba	"we shall eat"
nilokowaleba	"you will eat" (sg.)
nilokowalleba	"you will eat" (pl.)
gilokowaleba	"he will eat"
ekwilokowalleba	"they will eat"

-injo "drink"

minjoba	"I shall drink"
etinjeleba	"we shall drink"
ninjoba	"you will drink" (sg.)
ninjeleba	"you will drink" (pl.)
ginjoba	"he will drink"
ekwinjeleba	"they will drink"

lakonne "to bring"

mi	lakonneba	"I shall bring"
eti	lakonneba	"we shall bring"
ni	lakonneba	"you will bring" (sg.)
ni	lakonneba	"you will bring" (pl.)

- gi lakonneba "he will bring"  
 ekwi lakonneba "they will bring"

Conditional Suffix -mba ~ -ba

### Examples

1. tōkilemba boykwele ati  
It becomes evening when night comes.
2. tōkibukiba gegarikolle ati  
It becomes morning when night ends.

There is another set of suffixes which are added to verbs at the end. -gi and -ge are indicative where as -ki and -ke are interrogative. On the basis of the present data it is difficult to comment about their distribution.

### Indicative -gi and -ge

### Examples

1. debaye iūkēnēne ūteddi ūaywabagi  
"daughter, go, your mother called you."
2. ūagaūkwentilegi "where is the foreigner?"
3. lua celemegi ukutteEge  
"there the moon is rising."
4. lua tōkului teikkeEge  
"there the sun is setting."

*Interrogative -ki and -ke**Examples*

1. tōkita nā ni eñulleki  
"did you defecate again and again yesterday?"
2. giebobeki "did it run away?"
3. nākai beruleke "who is suffering from fever?"
4. nākai nejecha juka tetilebeke  
"who is refusing to give you tobacco?"
5. aba ni onerukua une?ke  
"hey! in which direction are you going?"

To indicate habitual or customary aspect of action or action taking place as a matter of course *ati* is used after the verbs.

*ati* habitual or customary action

*Examples*

1. kwaytembaŋka tirannaŋacui ŋnira ati  
"going into the creek the shark eats the man"
2. umegi ēgāmamemba became ati  
"the dog dies after becoming old"
3. onotagilelemba eti?nde ati  
"we bathe if perspire"

*The attributive constructions*

The attributive constructions, the head (when it is a noun) takes the article -gi~ -i and attributes are joined after it.

Examples (article is discussed under Nouns).

- bEnnañgiela "the sky blue (the sky is blue)"
1. bEnnañe "sky"  
 + - gi "article"  
 + - iela "blue"
  2. tñkuluikulukutuga "The sun is very hot"  
 tñkulu "sun"  
 + - i "article"  
 + - ikulu "hot"  
 + - ikutu "much"  
 + - ga "suffix"

-ga suffix is found to occur frequently in attributive constructions. However, distribution can not be defined as such.

Examples

- legeta gijakutuga "honey also smells very good"  
 tñkuluikulukutuga "The sun is very hot"

Sometimes, the attributive form is directly added to the noun form without an interposed article e.g.

1. uentayra "a small dog"  
 ueme "dog"  
 + - itay "small"  
 + - ra "singular suffix"
2. koonuera "a big snake"  
 koonie "snake"  
 + - ue "big"  
 + - ra "singular suffix"

*Word Order :*

Generally word order in sentences like statements, commands, and questions is :

introductory word or phrase indicating time or location + subject + indirect object + direct object + verb. Examples of various types of sentences and variations in the arrangement of words are given in the list of sentences below.

*Sentences.*

kwace "hello" (greeting at the time of meeting)

kwace "hello" (in answer to the greeting)

1. kwa natibe "what is your name ?"  
or
2. natibenene "tell your name ?"
3. matibe borogegi "my name is Borogegi"
4. gatibe nene "tell his name ?"
5. gatibe (e)raju "his name is Raju"
6. kwaycore nikoraleke  
"where is your temporary hut ?"
7. eti lEbanarea koraleke  
"we have temporary hut in Dugong creek"

*Notes.*

1. kwa "what" natibe → na + atibe  
n- "your" (Pronominal prefix, singular)  
-atibe "name"

2. -nene future marker suffix, (here used in the sense of "tell")
3. matibe→m- + -atibe  
m- "my" (Pronominal prefix)\*
4. gatibe→g- + -atibe  
g- "his" (Pronominal prefix)\*
5. kwayeore "where"  
nikoraleke→ni + korale + -ke  
ni "your (plural)"  
korale "temporary hut"  
-ke "suffix indicating direction or continuation of the action" (see verbal suffixes)
7. eti "we" IEbanare+ -a IEbanare "Dugong Creek"  
-a (suffix indicating location, instrument) "at"

1. kwa ñibarabe "Are you well?"
2. mibarobe "I am well"
3. kwace ñamborobe "Are you happy?"
4. mamborobe "I am happy"
5. eti amborobe "we are happy"
6. ekwiamborobema "they are not happy"

Notes.

1. kwa "what" or question marker.  
ñibarabe→ñ- + ibaro + -be  
ñ- "you" (Pronominal prefix) sg.  
-ibaro "well"

\* For Pronominal prefixes, see page 11

-be "completive verbal suffix", also verbalizer

3. kwace "interrogative, "what"  
mamborobe → ma - + -amboro + -be  
-amboro "happy"
  5. etiamborobe → eti- + -amboro + -be  
eti- "we"
  6. ekwiamborobema → ekwi- + -amboro + -be + ma  
ekwi- "they"  
-amboro "happy"  
-be "completive verbal suffix"  
ma "negative marker"
- 

1. kwanā nariEle ukye  
"where is your coconut grove"
2. ma nariEle lēya  
"my coconut grove is there (not far away)"
3. kwa nariEle a nilokwalebe "Do you eat coconut?"
4. etilokwalebe "we eat (coconut)"
5. etilokwalebe narema "we do not eat (coconut)"

#### Notes

1. kwa "what" or question marker  
nā "your"  
nariEle "coconut"  
ukye "grove (garden)"
2. ma "my"  
lē "that or those"  
-ye "place"



3. -a object suffix (see rule under verbal suffixes.)  
 nilokwalebe → ni- + -ilokwale + -be  
 ni- "you (sg.)"  
 -ilokwale "to eat"  
 -be "completive suffix"
  4. etilokwalebe → eti- + ilokwale + -be.  
 eti- "we"
  5. narema "not" (negative).
- 
1. eti kwatitokwagukwañka nariEle eañka atikennebe  
 "we take coconut to Hut bay"
  2. eti dañege nariEle kwatitokwagukwañka  
 atikennebe  
 "we take coconut to Hut Bay by boat"
  3. eti kwatitokwagikata oroti caeta lakonnebe  
 "we bring wheat flour, tea from Hut bay"
  4. orotigi gajabebe  
 "The oroti (wheat flour) is good"

## Notes

1. eti "we"  
 kwatitokwagukwañka → kwatitokwa + -gi +  
 -ukuañka  
 kwatitokwa "Hut bay"  
 gi + ukuañka > gukuañka  
 gi "article the" (see vowel elision rules, p. 81)  
 ukuañka "in the direction of."  
 nariEle 'coconut'  
 eañka → e + aña

- e "locational." -aũka "at ; to"
- atikennebe→atikenne + -be
- atikenne "take away"
- be "completive verbal suffix"
- 2. da?nege→dañe + ge
- da?ne canoe
- ge "by means of"
- 3. kwatitokwagikata→kwatitokwa + -gi + -kata
- kata "from" caeta→ca+ -eta ca "tea" eta "and"
- lakonnebe→lakonne+ -be
- lakonne - "bring"
- be "completive suffix"
- 4. orotigi → oroti + -gi
- oroti "wheat flour"
- gi "article"
- gajabebe→gajabe + -be
- gajabe "good"
- be "verbal suffix, completive"

1. mi hatbekata ijyebe "I came from Hut Bay"
2. kwace ñamborobe "hallo ! are you happy ?"
3. ñaigi "yes"
4. etiamborobe "we are happy"
5. migeaye ulecebe "I am thirsty"
6. miñe injonene "I shall drink water"
7. ma inegitenene "give me the water"

8. minlea "I shall fetch (water)"
9. a?ndeki "give mere"
10. kə? "take, hold (imp.)"
11. likaibaro "this is good"

## Notes

1. mi "I" hatbekata → hatbe + -kata  
 hatbay (Hatbay, name of a township, Onge place name is kwatitokwa)  
 -kata "from."  
 ijyebe → ijye + -be  
 ijye "come" -be "completive verbal suffix"
2. kwace "hello" "while meeting, a term of greeting"  
 ñiamborobe → ñi + -amboro + -be  
 ñi "you" (sg.)  
 -amboro - "heavy"
3. ñaigi "yes"
4. etiamborobe → eti- + -amboro + -be  
 eti "we"
5. migeaye → mi + geaye  
 mi "I"  
 ulecebe → ulece + -be  
 ulece "thirst"  
 -be completive verbal suffix.  
 -geaye (meaning could not be ascertained)

1. ñakai beruleke "who has fever?"
2. mi berulebe "I have fever"
3. gi uletebe "he has ache"
4. ma ecele berulebe "my child has fever."
5. miabanene "I shall see."
6. mi goli belenene "I shall give medicine"  
(tablet, etc.)
7. likai goli kə? "take this medicine (tab.)"
8. tɔŋkiba goli ñilokwanene "at night you eat the  
tablet" (imp.)
9. cEta iñeñinjonene "later you drink water" (imp.)
10. cEtañi omokanene "later you sleep" (imp.)

## Notes.

1.  $\bar{n}akai$  who.  $beruleke \rightarrow berule + -ke$   
 $berule$  "fever"  
 $-ke$  "verbal suffix (verbalizier)"
  2.  $mi$  "I"  $burulebe \rightarrow berule + -be$   
 $-be$  "completive aspect suffix"
  3.  $gi$  "he"  $uletebe \rightarrow ulete + -be$   
 $ulete$  "ache"
  4.  $ma$  "my"  $ecele$  "child"
  5.  $miabanene$   $mi + -iaba + -nene$ .  
 $-iaba$  "see"  
 $-nene$  "future tense suffix" (also imp.)
  6.  $belenene \rightarrow bele + nene$ ,  $bele$  "give"
  7.  $likai$  "this"  $k\bar{o}?$  "take (imp.)"
  8.  $t\bar{o}nkiba$  "at night"  
 $\bar{n}ilokwanene \rightarrow ni- + ilokwale + -nene$ .  
 $ni-$  "you (sg.)"  $ilokwale$  "eat"
  9.  $c\bar{E}ta$  "later"  $\bar{n}injonene \rightarrow ni- + -injo + -nene$   
 $\bar{n}i\bar{n}e$  "water"  $-injo$  "drink"  $-nene$   
"imperative suffix"
  10.  $omokanene \rightarrow + nene$   $omoka$  "sleep"  
 $-nene$  "(imp. Suffix)".
- 
1.  $kwa\bar{n}i$   $omokabe$  "did you sleep? (sg.)"
  2.  $\bar{n}aigi$  "yes"
  3.  $mi$   $omokabe$  "I slept"

4. mi omokabe ma "I did not sleep"
5. kwace ice namborobe "are you happy now."
6. naigi "yes"
7. narema "no." goli a?ndeki "give more medicine"
8. mi goli geakaba belenene "I shall give medicine tomorrow."
9. gi da?nekatitekabe "he fell down from the tree."
10. gakwane "he is feeling pain"
11. mi gakwaikwelenene "you bind it (with a piece) of a cloth on the aching part)"
12. niromamekaka "you will be cured"

## Notes

1. kwa "what" question marker ni "you (sg.)"  
omokabe → omoka + -be.,  
omoka "sleep" -be "completive"
2. naigi "yes" (3) mi "I" (4) ma "not"
5. kwace "question marker, hello for greeting or calling"  
ice "now" namborobe → ni + - amboro + - be  
ni- "you" -amboro "happy"
7. narema "No." goli "tablet or medicine"  
a?ndeki "give more" (8) geakaba "tomorrow"  
belenene → bele + -nene, bele "give"  
-nene "future tense marker",

## 9. gi "he"

da?ñekatitekabe → da?ñe + -kata + -iteka + -be

da?ñe "tree"

-kata "from"

-iteka "fall down" ("a" of kata is elided)

## 12. niromamekaka → ñ - + -romame + -kaka

ñ - "you ('you', sg.)"

-iromame "to be cured"

-kaka "distant future tense marker"

1. kwace ñi òñnea "what do you want?"
2. eti oroti, ca, juka òñnebe "we want wheat/flour,  
tea and tobacco."
3. ekwi kue òñnebe "they want pig"
4. kuele gajabe "pigs are good"
5. babulei etati?kebe "Babus are bad"
6. onerera "why"?
7. ekwi kuele gaikwabe "they killed pigs"
8. koligaba "where"?
9. gaiboralea "in the forest"
10. boaleta kuele gaiboralea kutu "previously pigs  
were many in the forest"

## Notes

1. ni "you (sg.)" onnea→onne + -a  
onne "want" "-a" "verbal suffix indicating continuation of the action"
  2. eti "they", oroti "wheat/flour" ca "tea",  
juka "tobacco leaves"  
onnebe→onne + -be  
-be "completive verbal suffix"
  4. kuele→kue + -le  
kue "pig", -le "plural suffix"  
gajabe "good"
  5. babulei "Babu term is used to designate the outside workers/labourers who go there for work. They do make distinction between those workers and government officials."  
etati?kebe→etati?ke + -be.  
etati?ke "bad"
  7. gaikwabe→gaikwa + -be. gaikwa "killed"
  9. gaiboralea→gaiborale + -a. gaiborale "forest"  
-a "in" "locative marker"
  10. boaleta "previously"  
gaiboraleakutu→gaiborale + -a + -kutu.  
-kutu "many", much.
- 
1. kwace ni bEigunene "will you stay in the forest?"
  2. naigi, mi bEigunene "yes, I will stay in the forest"
  3. mi bEigunenema "I will not stay in the forest"



4. ekwi bEigunene "they will stay in the forest"
5. nāya ni une?a "where are you going?"
6. kunjimurinjotekata eti kue tōrokanene  
"after taking tea we will go for pig hunting"
7. koligaba kue gaikwabe "where did you kill pig?"

## Notes.

1. kwace "question marker," ni "you (sg.)"  
bEigunene → bEigu + -nene.  
bEigu "to stay in the forest"  
-nene "future tense marker"
2. nāigi "yes" mi "I"
3. bEigunenema → bEigu + -nene + ma.  
ma "negative marker"
4. ekwi "they"
5. nāya "where, which place"  
une?a → une? + -a. une? to go.  
-a "continuous tense suffix"
6. kunjimurinjotekata →  
→ kunjimuri + -injo + -te + -kata  
(i of kunjimuri is elided),  
kunjimuri "tea"  
-injo "to drink".  
-te "verbal suffix indicating direction or location"  
-kata "from", eti "we"  
tōrokanene → tōroka + -nene.

- toroka "to go for hunting".  
 -nene "future tense suffix"
7. koligaba "where" kue "pig".  
 gaikwabe → gaikwa + -be  
 gaikwa "to kill," -be "completive"
- 

8. gaiboralea "in the forest"
9. ice kue gaiboraleakutu  
 "now pigs are plenty in the forest".
10. tōnkita gaiboralea ijejidda kuele eti gaikwabe  
 "yesterday we killed three pigs in the forest".
11. tōnkita etilokwale be kue kutuga  
 "yesterday we ate too much pig".
- — — — —

### Notes

8. gaiboralea → gaiborale + -a  
 gaiborale "forest"  
 -a "in" (location marker)
9. ice "now". gaiboraleakutu → gaiborale + a + kutu  
 -kutu "much"
10. tōnkita "yesterday"  
 ijejidda "three" kuele → kue + -le  
 kue "pig". -le "plural suffix"
11. etilokwalebe → et + -ilokwale + -be  
 et "we" (prefix) -ilokwale "to eat"  
 -be "completive suffix"

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kuekutuga → kue + -kutu + -ga

-kutu "much"

-ga "definitive"

- 
1. geakaba ñaɣya ɲi une?nene  
"tomorrow where will you go?"
  2. geakaba gaiboralea gigi eti benenene  
"tomorrow we shall dig tuber in the forest"
  3. ɛɲallei wagilia cendalu bene ati  
"the woman dig tuber by an iron (implement)"
  4. cendalu etilokwale ati. "we eat tubers"
  5. eti gaiboralekata gigi lakonne ati  
"we bring gigi (a kind of tuber) from the forest"
  6. inenlei weleweleta kane taoa ati  
"the foreigners often eat rice"

## Notes.

1. geakaba "tomorrow"  
ñaɣya "where" ɲi "you (sg.)"  
une?nene → une? + -nene. une? "to go"  
-nene "future tense suffix".
2. gaiboralea → gaiborale + -a. gaiborale "forest"  
"-a in" (locative). gigi "a kind of tuber". eti "we"  
benenene → bene + -nene. bene "to dig tuber"
3. ɛɲallei → ɛɲale + -le + -i  
ɛɲale "woman". -le "plural suffix" -i "the article"  
wagilia → wagili + -a. wagili "iron implement"

cendalu "tuber".

bene "to dig"

ati "usual aspect of action"

4. etilokwale → eti + -ilokwale.

et- "we" (prefix)

-ilokwale "to eat"

5. gaiboralekata → gaiborale + -kata

-kata "from"

lakonne "bring"

6. inenlei → inene + -le + -i

("e of inene is dropped") see p. 56

inene "foreigner" -i article.

weluweta "often"

kane "rice"

taoa "eat"

1. kwaceli "what is this?"

2. likai da?he "this is tree/canoe"

3. kwacelē "what is that?"

4. lēkai wagili "that is iron implement  
(to dig tuber etc.)"

5. nā ga kēewa? "is it his harpoon?"

6. nāigi "yes"

7. narema "no"

8. mi giliē ma "I do not know"

9. minacekamebe "I forgot"
10. miñagelebe ma "I did not tell lie"

## Notes.

1. kwaceli → kwace + li  
kwace "what". li "this"
2. likai → li + -kai -kai "person or thing"  
da?ne "tree / canoe"
3. kwacelē → kwace + lē  
lē "that"
4. lēkai → lē + -kai  
wagili "iron implement for digging tuber etc."
5. ña "interrogative" ga "his"  
kēewa? "harpoon"
8. mi "I". giliñe "know" ma "not"
9. minacekamebe → m- + -inacekame + -be  
-inacekame "forget" -be "completive suffix"
10. miñagelebe → m- + -iñagele + -be m- "I" (prefix)  
-iñagele "to tell a lie"

- 
1. kwace ñi omokabe "did you sleep? (sg.)"
  2. ñaigi "yes"
  3. mi omokabe "I slept"
  4. lioaomokabe "all sleep here"
  5. mi omokabe ma "I did not sleep"

*Notes.*

1. kwace "question marker". ni "you" (sg.)  
omokabe → omoka + -be omoka "sleep"  
-be "completive suffix"
  2. naigi "yes".      3. mi "I".
  5. ma "not" (negation)
- 

1. ñakai eña "who is laughing?"
  2. ekwi eña "they are laughing"
  3. mi eña ma "I am not laughing"
  4. gi eña "he is laughing"
- 

*Notes*

1. ñakai → ña + -kai, ña "which."  
-kai "person or thing"  
eña → eñi + -a eñi "to laugh"  
"-a" "present continuous tense suffix"
  2. ekwi "they"
  4. gi "he"
- 

*Some Vowel deletion rules and assimilation rules.*

1. When number suffixes -da/-di, (sg.) -dena/-deni (dual), -le (plural) are added to the nouns ending in 'e' the final vowel 'e' of the noun is elided and the preceding consonant undergoes a change (regressive assimilation).

Note that all nasal consonants change to alveolar nasal 'n' before 'd' and l, and other consonants are assimilated to 'd' and 'l'.

*Examples*

ueme+da > uemda > uenda "dog" (sg.)

ueme+dena > uemdena > uendenena

"two dogs" (dual)

ueme+le > uemle > uenle

"dogs" (pl.) (more than two)

Here when number suffixes are added, first, final vowel 'e' of the noun ueme is elided and then bilabial nasal 'm' changes to alveolar 'n'.

umuge+da > umugda > umudda "pigeon" (sg.)

umuge+dena > umugdena > umuddena

"two pigeons" (dual)

umuge+le > umugle > umulle

"pigeons" (pl.) (more than two)

da?ne+da > da?nda > da?nda

"canoe, tree" (sg.)

da?ne+dena > da?ndena > da?ndena

"two canoes, two trees" (dual)

da?ne+le > da?nle > da?nle

"canoes, trees (pl.)" ("more than two")

inene+da > inenda "foreigner" (sg.)

inene+dena > inendenena "two foreigners (dual)"

inene+le > inenle "foreigners (pl.)

(more than two)

debaye+di > debaydi > debaddi "daughter (sg.)"

debaye+deni > debaydeni > debaddeneni

"two daughters" (dual)

kame+da > kamda > kanda "mat (sg.)"

kame+dena > kamdena > kandena

"two mats (dual)"

kame+le > kamle > kanle "mats (pl.) (more than two)"

- 1.1. Generally no change takes place when the number suffixes -ri/-ra (sg.), -reni/-rena (dual), -nni (plural) are added to the nouns, especially ending in 'e' or 'a'.

*Examples:*

ale + ri > aleri "child (sg.)"

ale + reni > alereni "two children (dual)"

ale + nni > alenni "children (pl.) more than two"

debaye + nni > debayenni

"daughters (pl.) more than two"

wawa + ra > wawara "crow" (sg.)

wawa + rena > wawarena "two crows (dual)"

wawa + le > wawale "crows

(pl.) more than two"

- 1.2. Plural suffix -le when added to the verb.

It has already been mentioned under verbal suffixes that some verbs seem to require plural suffix when the subject is in plural form e.g., etilokowallebe → et- + ilokowale + le + be "we ate" (pl.)

It may be noted here that when plural suffix is added to the verb, only the final vowel of the verb is elided.



*Examples*

etilokowallea → et- + ilokowale + le + a

"we are eating"

nilokowallea → n- + ilokowale + le + a

"you are eating (pl.)"

etinjele → et- + injo + le + a "we are drinking"

where the plural suffix is -lle, the final vowel of the verb is not elided

e.g., otolagellebe → ot- + olage + lle + be

"we danced"

2. When the words are combined, the final vowel of the preceding word and the initial vowel of the following word is generally found to be elided ; e.g.

ueme "dog"

-itayera "small"

ueme + itayera > uemtayera > uentayera "puppy"

Here the final vowel 'e' of the preceding word "ueme" and the initial vowel 'i' of the following word -itayera, both are elided and the bilabial nasal 'm' of the preceding word (ueme) is assimilated by the following consonant alveolar 't' to its homoorganic nasal i.e. 'n' ; other examples are :

-ibile "arm"

-ite "bite"

-ibile + ite > -ibilte > -ibitte

"bite by snake on the arm"

-ome "hand"

-ome + -ite > omte > onte

"bite by snake on the hand"

-uge "foot" + -ite > -ugte > -utte

"bite by snake on the foot"

However some exceptions have also been observed in the data.

-ibo "flesh of thigh"

-ibo + -ite > -ibote "bite by snake on the flesh of thigh"

Here only the initial vowel of the following word is elided.

abe "chest"

-abe + -ite > abete/abette "bite by snake on the chest"

umegi "the dog"

atekkebe "barked"

umegi + atekkebe >  
> umegatekkebe

"dog barked"

Here the final vowel of the preceding word is elided.

When certain suffixes are added to indicate syntactic relations, following changes take place :

- 1.1 When the possessed form is independent, the possessor takes the suffix '-a' after the article (-gi, -i), the vowel of the article is elided, e.g.

ēne + gi + a > ēnega "the onge's"

ēnega kwelabe "Onge's cloth"

icelegi + e > icelege "through the path"

iEgi + a > iEga "by the knife"

da?negi + e > da?nege "by means of canoe"

1.2 When the postpositions, viz. -ota -aŋka, -ejeka and -onota are added to the nouns or pronouns the final vowel of the noun or pronoun is elided. e.g. ;

mi + ota > mota "towards me"

ueme + ota > uemota "towards the dog"

ni + aŋka > naŋka "at you, by you" (pl.)

totakuegi + anka > totakuegaŋka "by the iron file"

ni + ejeka > nejeka "away from you"

kɔŋegi + ejeka > kɔŋegejeka

"away from the snake"

gi + oŋota > goŋota "with him"

beleme + oŋota > belemoŋota "with smoke"

(see more examples under syntactic relations).

Generally personal pronouns occur in the subject position as substitute of nouns, but when they occur in the position of an object or as possessor they generally take the suffix -a, the vowel -i of the personal pronoun is elided.

mi + a > ma "me, my"

eti + a > eta "our, us"

When the reflexive pronouns are formed by adding the suffix -akui the final vowel i of the pronouns is also elided. e.g.

mi + akui > makui "myself"

gi + akui > gakui "himself"

See more examples under syntactic relations.

## Tense suffixes viz.

- be "completive aspect"
- le "verbalizer suffix"
- a~-E "present continuous tense"  
or immediate future"
- nene "future tense, imperative mood,  
command etc."
- kaka subsequent or distant future"
- ba "indefinite future"
- maba~ -ba "conditional"

When added to the various forms indicating tense aspect etc. no elision takes place.

*examples.*

- une?be "went"
- omokabe "slept"
- eñibe "laughed"
- minjobe "I drank"
- tñkile "night falls"
- milokwalea "I am eating"
- ginjoa "he is drinking"
- iñkẽE "will go"
- eñiE "laughing"
- iñkẽnene "will go / go away (order)"
- eñinene "will laugh / laugh (order)"
- ñinjonene "you will eat / you eat (order)" (sg.)
- ekwilokowallekaka "they will eat"

lakonnekaka "will bring"  
 minjoba "I shall drink"  
 lakonneba "shall bring"

*Some more sentences :*

1. mi kue toeba I pig eat-shall  
 "I shall eat pig"
2. tɔ̀nkita eti kue taoebe yesterday we pig ate  
 "yesterday we ate pig"
3. gi bujeyebińkēbe he walked-went  
 "he went away walking"
4. mi ɔ̀gegantitebe I fish-the-shot-arrow  
 "I shot the fish with arrow"
5. ekwejalle abemoibe their-faces-look-similar  
 "their faces look similar"
6. ńi mańka ga ańgibete belebe  
 you from-me him match-box gave  
 "you gave him the match box (taking) from me"
7. Inenegi kueilowabegi kuburańega  
 foreigner-the pig-shot gun-by-the  
 "the foreigner shot the pig by the gun"
8. uemegatekkebe dog-the-barked  
 "the dag barked"

---

Note : Please see verbs for details.

9. gi ecElletucebe      he children-sent  
"he sent the children"
10. wega gi ga uebe  
clay-by she him painted  
"she painted him with clay"
11. tñkita gi tukiriañega kueitekwatebe  
yesterday he spear-by pig-pierced"  
"yesterday he hunted pig by the spear"
12. gi ukuannañka tañjaibube  
he bucket-into honey-poured  
"he poured honey in the bucket"
13. boaleta gi wayea ñoralebe  
previously he both you-shaved-head  
"previously he saved the heads of both of you"
14. ecelegi ñoñoa  
child-the is-sucking  
"the child is sucking"  
(milk from breast)
15. lua cilemegi ukitteEge  
that moon -the rising (-ge indicative suffix)  
"there the moon is rising"
16. lua tñkului teikkeEge  
that sun the setting (-ge indicative suffix)  
"the sun is setting"
17. gi oana ma  
he cry not  
"he does not cry"

18. ice gi nariEleetañegirage  
now he coconut-the kernel-the eating  
(-ge indicative suffix)  
"now he is eating the coconut kernel"
19. geakaba mi likkaronnekaka  
tomorrow I this-thing-ask-shall  
"tomorrow I shall ask this thing"
20. ãnegi bencamba eEkamame ati  
Onge - the die - when spirit become  
(usual aspect of action)  
"the Onge becomes a spirit after death"
21. uemegi ãgamameba bencame ati  
dog - the old - become - when die  
(usual aspect of action)  
"the dog dies after becoming old"
22. onotagilelemba eti?nde ati  
perspire-when we-bathe (usual aspect of action)  
"we bathe if perspiring"
23. mi uneba galabukenene  
I going him-scold-shall  
"I shall scold him after going to him"
24. mi injobega mañabebe, gimagibe  
I injobe made-my-wife, she made me husband  
"I made injobe (name of a woman) my wife,  
she made me her husband"
25. gi dañekatitekabe  
he tree from fell-down  
"he fell down from the tree"

26. ekwanoikwabe  
they - wrestled  
"they wrestled"
27. ma likkayabenene  
me this-thing-give  
"give me this thing"
28. nanacebegukweconene  
your wife-the call  
"call your wife"
29. etaikwa ma  
us shoot not  
"do not shoot us (arrow)"
30. enemake galimbe Enene  
chair like this keep  
"keep the chair like this"
31. konohegejeka iikenene  
snake-the away go  
"go away from the snake".
32. nabe kwatebalenene  
wife creek-go for fishing  
"wife, go to the creek for fishing"
33. gi enetaingale goinota danegonta bElakwenene  
he take-photo with-it tree-the-on stay  
"stay on the tree when he takes photo"



34. ña kakodditeta takoddonne  
your grandmother-from pipe ask  
"ask the (smoking) pipe from your grandmother."
35. li icelege ñkēnene  
this path-by go  
"go by this path"
36. ñomega gatotalenene  
your-hand-by it-clean  
"clean it by your hand".
37. kinaga gite? tñkiba mañotabeñkaka  
two give night-in (future) I smoke shall  
"give two (cigarettes) I shall smoke in the night"
38. debaye, ñkēnene, ñuteddi ñayewabagi  
daughter, go, your mother you called.  
"daughter, go, your mother called you."
39. kwa ñakai gawaleteke  
(question) who peepinto  
"who is peeping into?"
40. ñakai ñejeka juka tetilebeke  
who from-you tobacco refuse to give  
"who refuses to give you tobacco"
41. ñagañkwentalegi  
where-foreigner-the  
"where is the foreigner?"

42. jokEnabe, ñagama këye  
wife, where my harpoon  
"wife, where is my harpoon?"
43. koma loŋgotitayera  
where my mug-small  
"where is my small mug?"
44. kwa gi ɔnero toɾo  
(question) he where gone  
"where has he gone?"
45. abu ñi onerukua une? ke  
hey! you which direction go  
"hey! in which direction are you going?"
46. kɔligaba tɔŋkulukke  
where sun  
"where is the sun?"
47. ume ñi ña ya bElakweke  
father you where stay  
"father, where are you staying?"
48. onereta gi mayewaba  
why he me call  
"why is he calling me?"
49. onereta ñi aŋe beteke  
why you again go  
"why do you go again?"

50. kwace ekwi ligoreta namebe  
what they there made fire  
"did they make fire over there?"
51. kwa ñakaalabukeke uenlei  
(question) whom-bark dogs the  
"to whom are the dogs barking?"
52. mi giliñe  
I it-know  
"I know it"